(b) if so, the details of the results obtained so far;

(c) the commercial feasibility of the results towards achieving the self-sufficiency in the edible oils production; and

(d) the conditions under which oil palm cultivation is possible in the country and the potential area for cultivation thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Department of Biotechnology has initiated research and development on various aspects of oil-palm cultivation, including tissue culture propagation. Work carried out with seedling explants has resulted in tissue culture plants which has been transferred to soil. However, the research on tissue culture propogation of oil-palm is only at the laboratory level and there is no immediate commercial possibility.

(c) An area of about 28,000 ha have so far been brought under oil-palm cultivation in the country covering eight states. The initial yield performance in the farmer's field is encouraging.

(d) Oil-palm cultivation in the country is possible under irrigated conditions, temmperature ranging from 18-22° C (minimum) to 29-33° C (maximum) with 1800 hours of sunshine per annum. State-wise potential areas for oil-palm cultivation are given below :

S.No.	States	Total area (lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.00
2.	Assam	0.10
3.	Gujarat	0.61
4.	Goa	0.10
5.	Karnataka	2.50
6.	Kerala	0.05
7.	Maharashtra	0.10
8.	Orissa	0.10
9.	Tamil Nadu	030
10.	Tripura	0.05
11.	West Bengal	0.10
	Total	8.01

[Translation]

Delhi Milk Scheme

2540 SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of schemes of the Delhi Milk Scheme are lying pending due to non-availability of the land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when such schemes are lying pending; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

[English]

Diversion of Forest Land

2541 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enhanced powers of sanction has been delegated to the Chief Conservators and other similar officers posted by the Government at the different State Headquarters with a view to clearing the cases sent by the State Governments for the diversion of forest land to non-forestry purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases are lying pending with the Chief Conservator posted at Bhopal for according his clearance or for onward transmission to the Central Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For speedy clearance of projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, powers have been delegated to the Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) Government of India to finally dispose off the proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha., except in respect of regularisation of encroachment and mining. Power has also been delegated to the CCFs (Central) for processing proposals involving diversion of forest area above 5 ha. and upto 20ha., in consultation with State Advisory Group, for decision by the Ministry.

(c) Number of proposals pending with Regional Office, Bhopal, is 48.

Drive against Anti-Social Elements

2542 DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any drive against anti-social elements operating at platfroms of Delhi Railway Stations has been conducted by the Northern Railway recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons arrested so far;